

## JOHN MUIR TURNER

John Muir Turner was born December 27, 1877, at Heber, Wasatch County, Utah, son of John and Agnes Montgomery Turner. He was the eighth child of 12 children. He received his education in a school-



house where the Heber First-Sixth Ward now stands. After a few years there he attended Central School, a building located where the present Central School now stands. He graduated from the eighth grade and was considered a well-educated young man.

As a young fellow he helped his father with farming and the cattle business. In the summer his father had a sawmill, and young John would work there also. Later on, his folks built a store and a theater and he helped by carrying the hod for the entire job.

As a boy he liked baseball and became a fairly good player. He later worked on the Ontario Drain Tunnel, where the Park Utah mine at Keetley now is.

In 1903, when the telephone exchange was built at Heber, he found a job constructing the lines. That same year he went to St. Louis, Missouri, to work, staying there until the fall of 1904. He went to the World's Fair several times and had the pleasure of showing friends and relatives from Heber around the fair.

When he arrived home from St. Louis he stayed but a short time. There was a gold rush at Goldfield, Nevada, and there was much excitement. So, with Joe Averett and Louis Jaspersen, they rigged up a sheep wagon and a team of horses and set out to seek their fortunes. This trek required 23 days before Goldfield was reached.

While working there, his father died. However, he never received word of his death until about sixty days later, because he was out prospecting for gold. As soon as he was notified he made preparations to return home.

After his return home from Nevada he

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farmed, helping to operate the theater, raised cattle, and worked in the sawmill. This work he continued until about 1915. Then he and his brother James went to Idaho, to the Raft River Valley. There he met his future wife, Anna Willmore. They were married in Logan, Utah, on December 29, 1916. This marriage was later solemnized in the Salt Lake Temple. To this couple were born three sons and two daughters.

After several years working at various jobs, he finally secured employment with the Bonneville Lumber Company in Heber. Later he became manager of this business when the former manager moved away. He worked there 12 years, and then they sold out to another concern. He continued with the new concern about 18 months.

During the depression years of the 1930s he started his own lumber yard business. This new venture was called the Turner Building Supply. The original store opened for business April 1, 1934, and the location was the old Joseph Hatch coal yard down by the railroad track. On July 1, 1942, the present store on Main Street was ready for business. Vernal, in addition to the one in Heber. These businesses are operated by his three sons.

He was active in his Church. He took great pride in being on the building committee of the First Ward chapel when it was remodeled and enlarged. Ground for this project was broken on April 15, 1952, and the building dedicated on March 11, 1953.

He was a charter member of the Heber Lions Club and one of the oldest key members in the international organization.

Over the years, John acquired many friends, both young and old. He lived a full, active life practically to the very end.

On March 20, 1954, John Muir Turner died in a Salt Lake City hospital following a two-month illness. His funeral services were held in the First Ward chapel on March 22, and he was buried in the cemetery at Heber.

ARTHUR AND EMILY  
ADELIA WATKINS



Arthur Watkins, son of John Watkins and Harriet Steel Watkins, pioneer settlers of Provo and Midway, was born in Provo, October 22, 1864. Soon after his birth his family moved to Midway, Wasatch County, where he grew to manhood. He married Emily Adelia Gerber, the youngest daughter of Dr. John and Ann Marie Ackert Gerber, also Wasatch County pioneers, March 19, 1886.

During his adult career in Wasatch County Arthur Watkins engaged in farming, lumber milling and mining activities. Prior to her marriage Mrs. Watkins was a stu-

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dent at Deseret University (later University of Utah) and later became a school teacher in Wasatch County. Her father died when she was nine years of age. Prior to her marriage she lived with her mother Ann Marie Ackert Gerber, who during most of her life in Wasatch County served the people as a nurse.

In 1897 the Arthur Watkins family moved to Uintah County to become one of the pioneer families of that area. When the Uintah Indian Reservation was opened for settlement in 1905 by white citizens, the family filed on homesteads in that area where they resided until their removal to Los Angeles, California.

Mrs. Watkins died in Los Angeles April 3, 1947. Arthur Watkins died during his 95th year at Glendale, California.

Born to Arthur and Emily Adelia Watkins were the following children: Arthur Vivian, John Franklin, Ethel, Nora, Harriet (died in infancy), LaPriel (died in infancy), Sterling (died in early youth) all born in Wasatch County; Avis and Lyle born in Uintah County.

A son, John Franklin, died at Bishop, California in 1957. Many of the descendants of Arthur and Emily Adelia Watkins now live in Southern California. Other members of the family are living in Utah and Washington, D.C.

PLACES: Sharon, Windsor, Vt.  
ENTER ALL DATA IN THIS ORDER:  
DATES: 14 Apr 1794  
To indicate that a child is an ancestor of the person submitting the sheet, place an "X" behind the number pertaining to that child.

FAMILY  
GROUP  
RECORD

HUSBAND

Born \_\_\_\_\_ Place \_\_\_\_\_

Chr. \_\_\_\_\_ Place \_\_\_\_\_

Marr. \_\_\_\_\_ Place \_\_\_\_\_

Died \_\_\_\_\_ Place \_\_\_\_\_

Bur. \_\_\_\_\_ Place \_\_\_\_\_

HUSBAND'S FATHER \_\_\_\_\_ HUSBAND'S MOTHER \_\_\_\_\_

HUSBAND'S OTHER WIVES \_\_\_\_\_

WIFE

Born \_\_\_\_\_ Place \_\_\_\_\_

Chr. \_\_\_\_\_ Place \_\_\_\_\_

Died \_\_\_\_\_ Place \_\_\_\_\_

Bur. \_\_\_\_\_ Place \_\_\_\_\_

WIFE'S FATHER \_\_\_\_\_ WIFE'S MOTHER \_\_\_\_\_

WIFE'S OTHER HUSBANDS \_\_\_\_\_

SEX M F	CHILDREN List each child (whether living or dead) in order of birth Given Names SURNAME	WHEN BORN			WHERE BORN			DATE OF FIRST MARR TO WHOM
		DAY	MONTH	YEAR	TOWN	COUNTY	STATE OR COUNTRY	
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

OTHER MARRIAGES

NECESSARY EXPLANATIONS

ARTHUR AND EMILY  
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## HENRY AND JANE ELLIS ALDER WATKINS



Henry Watkins, son of John Watkins and Harriet Steele Watkins, was born January 5, 1860, at Provo. Married Jane Ellis Alder January 6, 1885; solemnized in Salt Lake LDS Temple June 1, 1893. Died May 24, 1940, Midway.

Jane Ellis Alder Watkins, daughter of Elijah and Mary Jane Wilson Alder, was born November 19, 1861, at Farmington. Died March 21, 1941, Midway.

Henry Watkins was the oldest son of thirteen children born to John Watkins and Harriet Steele.

When he was five years old his father and mother moved from Provo and settled in the Lower Settlement at Snake Creek.

His father and three wives had thirty-three children and it was hard in those days to support them. At the age of fifteen Henry made his own way and supported himself.

He married Jane Ellis Alder, and was the father of four sons and daughters.

He was an Elder in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He was a

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Henry Watkin ran  
sawmills in:  
Mill flat in Snake Crk.  
South Fork of Provo River  
Mt Lake Mine in Snake Crk.

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mason and carpenter, trades he inherited from his forefathers. He also owned a farm. He built his home on the east side of Midway and lived there until his death. He helped most of his children build their homes, and did much for the building of Midway. He built many homes, helped build the Midway First Ward church house, Second Ward meetinghouse in Heber City, worked on the old bank building, Wasatch High school and North School. He helped build the smoke stack to the furnace in the high school. He helped excavate the mill pond at Midway, built the old creamery by the Johnson's Milling Company, two school houses at Woodland and Francis. He helped survey many irrigation ditches and helped his father John Watkins survey the Midway Water Works. He helped in building two reservoirs up in the White Pines vicinity called the Island and Brimhall Lakes. He helped put in an assay furnace at the Silver King and Glencoe Mines in Park City, helped build the telephone office in Park City. He cut cord wood for the Ontario Mine used in the firing of boilers. He moved a saw mill boiler from Deer Creek to Mill Flat in Snake Creek, and when they were finished there, they moved it to the east side of Heber City to the South fork of the Provo River with ox teams. He ran a saw mill for two summers at the Mountain Lake Mine in Snake Creek Canyon. He took a large boiler from Mill Flat to Salt Lake City, with two yoke of cattle, to have it repaired as that was the only means of transportation.

He was a good neighbor and friend and neighbor to all who knew him and was very honest in all his dealings. He passed away at Midway, and was buried in the family plot.

Children of Henry and Jane Ellis Alder Watkins:

Elijah H.;  
Henry Morris, married Persie McKee;  
Casy LeRoy, married Cecelia Murdock, later Ida Rasband;  
Harriet Myrtle, married Earl M. Hardy, later Dan McMillan;  
Alma Lamar, married Lula May Giles, later Miranda Smith;  
Mary Jane, married Carl Bronson;  
Orpha Vida, married Reuben Orson Casper;  
Lucile, married Earl Daybell.  
Jane was born in Farmington and then

later moved with her family to Franklin, Idaho, and then to Kaysville, Davis County. They later moved to Midway.

At the age of 24 she married Henry Watkins, her childhood sweetheart, and during the next 56 years she raised four sons and four daughters to adulthood. She was always very active in public life. As a girl, she sang vocal solos in the old Bowery on the Midway Town Square. She was a Relief Society teacher for most of her married life, and worked in most of the auxiliary organizations of the church. She was a Primary teacher for many years.

She suffered many trials and hardships and worked very hard, for in those days they had none of the conveniences which we enjoy today. She was very kind, and loving, and charitable to everyone whom she knew. She would go to the bedside of neighbors and friends any hour of the day or night and help them in sickness or death.

She was a very good nurse, and delivered her own sister, Elizabeth, in childbirth, with no complications.

She was an excellent seamstress and made beautiful clothes for the dead. She washed and laid out many dead persons, because in those days morticians were seldom available. She also sewed for private customers.

She was very good to all her children, and she nursed each of her daughters and daughters-in-law when their babies were born. She had very poor health herself, but that didn't stop her from helping others. Before she died she said, "The road has been long and hard, but I have enjoyed every step of it."

## JOHN ULRICH AND SUSANNA GERTSCH PROBST

John Ulrich Probst, son of Ulrich Probst Sr., and Anna Barbara Kiener, was born October 18, 1860 at Habstetten, Bern, Switzerland. He married Susanna Gertsch, December 18, 1891 in the Logan Temple. He died September 13, 1950 in Midway.

Susanna Gertsch Probst, a daughter of Conrad Gertsch Sr., and Margaretha or Margareta Gertsch (no relation) Gertsch, was born August 29, 1874 at Wenden, Bern, Switzerland.

## BEAUTIFUL UPON THE MOUNTAINS



John Probst came to Midway July 4, 1872 with his parents. They built a log house with a dirt roof up the Snake Creek. His schooling consisted of three years in Switzerland, some time in the old Midway School and three winters in the German Hall. He also spent three months at the Brigham Young Academy in Provo.

He worked in the mountains chopping and hauling timber and cordwood for the mines at Park City. For about two and one-half years he worked in the same business at Silverdale. Three years were spent in the white pines. A log cabin was built by John Mueller Sr. and himself. In March and April they would take their yoke of oxen and wagons and haul the wood to the mines. He also spent part of one summer hauling saw logs from Cariboo Canyon to the Mill flat where the Snake Creek tunnel is now located. Bishop John Watkins operated a saw mill there.

In the spring of 1888, he homesteaded 16 acres of land near St. Anthony, Idaho. In the fall of 1891, he met Susanna Gertsch, who had just immigrated to Midway from Switzerland. They were married December 18, 1891 at the Logan Temple. He received his mission call to Switzerland on the 9th of April, 1895. He wrote the following from his first letter: "I sold two beef cows for \$100.00 each, a young five-year old horse, weighing 1100 pounds for \$45.00, another for \$25.00. I received \$75.00 from Lundeen for letting him in on the Probst ditch. All told, my wife and I had about \$400.00 for my mission and it took over \$100.00 to take me to my field of labor. All then that I had left was \$300.00."

Among the most interesting towns I visited while on my mission was Oberweningen. There I visited the old house we had once lived in where the gospel message had been brought to us by such men as Karl G. Maeser, Willard Richards, Theodore Brad-

## MIDWAY BIOGRAPHIES

lev, John Huber and others. It was also the place where we had been baptized and had gone to school.

Also I visited relatives of my wife in the Berns Oberland. They were both surprised and happy to see me. It had been only four years since my wife had emigrated.

Farming and paddling was the occupation of John Ulrich Probst. Each Friday he would deliver fresh produce, eggs and chickens to the housewives of Park City. They had a big garden, kept a big flock of chickens, his wife churned butter. Thursday was a busy day, cleaning chickens, churning butter, gathering eggs and helping to prepare the load. His wife was up at 3 a.m. on Fridays preparing the breakfast, warming the big rock (in the winter) for his feet, while he harnessed the team. She also kept a hot meal waiting in the evenings upon his return, which was often at 10 or 11 p.m.

Susanna Gertsch Probst attended the schools of Switzerland. Her earliest recollections were helping to herd cows on the Alps, raising cattle and making lace to sell to help with their support before going to school.

In 1890, missionaries brought the gospel to her family. It was a glorious time for them, and November 1890 she was baptized in a cold stream of water by Conrad Abeqglen. The first song she remembers learning was, "Oh Babylon, O Babylon, We Bid Thee Farewell, We're Going to the Mountains of Ephraim to Dwell." That is just what they did. The dear home that they loved was auctioned off, which provided money for their emigration to Zion.

The voyage over was a trying one, the family being seasick all the way. They arrived, however, in September, 1891, and came straight to Midway.

The following children were all born in the family home:

Clarence, married Mary Christensen;  
Parley, married Emma Christensen;  
Francis, married Alice Gallu;  
Neph, married Elizabeth Beck;  
Reed, married Cleopha Richards;  
Laura, married Vernon Nelson;  
Ruby, married Glen Rex;  
Owen, married Rosetta Bernards;  
Leah, married Arthur Godfrey;  
David, married Vivienne Stevens;  
Geneva, married Emil Cook.

Susanna Gertsch Probst has been a member and visiting teacher in Relief Society

John W. Probst  
Lucy Probst

all of her life, has received many awards for her faithfulness and perfect attendance records. She was also a faithful Primary teacher for several years.

John Ulrich and Susanna Gertsch Probst celebrated their golden wedding anniversary with their eleven children present. Four of their children fulfilled missions. At the time of their marriages all of the children were eligible for temple recommends and were married in the Temples. —